Docket No. THOLAM P167US

PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re: the PATENT Application of: **Earl Alexander Culham**

Serial No.   :   09/988,689

Title   :   **Method of Linking Web Pages**

Filed   :   **November 20, 2001**

Art Unit   :   2178

Examiner   :   **Kyle R. Stork**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Faxed to
571-273-8300
7 pages in Total

June 28, 2006

Dear Kyle:
     The following is a complete list of the claims annotated with their status and, where necessary, their markup. My remarks follow the revised claims.

CLAIMS

1-69. (cancelled)

70. (currently amended) A method of linking web pages, comprising the steps of:
    associating at least one supplementary link with ~~a primary~~ its anchoring web page, each such supplementary link including those features of the anchor which identify the target of a hypertext link while also excluding those ~~lacks the~~ features of the anchor which make a ~~regular~~ hypertext link visible in the output rendering of its anchoring web page, thus a supplementary link is normally hidden from view and does not disrupt the flow of text or graphics displayed on ~~the~~ its anchoring web page;
    providing information processing means by which the at least one supplementary link ~~is~~ may be transformed into a ~~regular~~ hypertext link.

71. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 70, at least one supplementary link being stored in a datastructure that is separate from ~~the primary~~ its anchoring web page.

72. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 71, the datastructure being associated with ~~the primary~~ its anchoring web page.

73. (cancelled)

74. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 139, the user initiated command being given through a single HTML tag on ~~the primary~~ its anchoring web page.

75. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 139, the user initiated command being a keystroke command code.

76. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 139, the user initiated command being through an icon.

77. (cancelled)

78. (original) The method as defined in claim 76, the icon being on a browser's tool bar.

79. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 70, further including a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the ~~primary~~ web page ~~to add~~ for associating a new supplementary link ~~to the primary~~ with that web page.

80. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 79, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can ~~add~~ associate a new supplementary link ~~to the primary~~ with that web page, the addition associating of the new supplementary link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

81. (original) The method as defined in claim 70, further including means for searching for supplementary links within a specified proximity to a cursor.

82. (original) The method as defined in claim 70, further including a search engine that searches for supplementary links that meet specified search criterion.

83. (currently amended) A method of linking web pages, comprising the steps of
    associating at least one supplementary link with a primary web page, each such supplementary link does not have an anchor ~~on the primary~~ within the content of that web page, each supplementary link providing access to at least one secondary web page, each supplementary link excluding those features of the anchor which make a hypertext link visible and selectable in the output rendering of the primary web page, each supplementary link being normally hidden from the view of the user so as not to disrupt the flow of text or graphics displayed on the web page;
    providing information processing means by which each supplementary link may be transformed into a ~~regular~~ hypertext link.

84. (cancelled)

85. (cancelled)